

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 DECEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft raided Iraqi military targets in 'Aqrah district, Al-Kumayt, and Halfayah 15 December, Iran announced in a Joint Staff Communique reported by IRNA. However, an Iraqi military spokesman cited by INA said the raids were unsuccessful. Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio detailed further raids by the Iraqi Air Force over the weekend, including 14 December attacks on the power station at Reza Dam and the oil pumping station at Ramhormoz. Iraqi planes also hit two more maritime targets off the Iranian coast, raided Khark Island, and struck at Iranian military concentrations, according to the communiques. As for the recent Iraqi air attacks on the Iranian border town of Hovayzeh, an Iraqi spokesman told INA that Hovayzeh is not a residential or civilian target as it has become an Iranian field command headquarters and a springboard for Iranian attacks in the Iraqi marshlands.

In an indication of Iranian intentions, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed in a Friday sermon broadcast by the radio that Iran's "patience and self-restraint will not be permanent." However, in a press interview cited by INA, the commander of Iraq's IV Army Corps warned Iran that Iraq has drawn up plans to crush any attack and "wipe out the enemy with an intense, destructive strike." He contended that most of the Iranian troops mobilized for an offensive are "young schoolchildren."

In a diplomatic development, Voice of the Masses announced Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's departure for the Soviet Union 16 December on a "cordial working visit."

Israel

Foreign Policy and Internal Differences — Israel must make a decision on relations with Egypt, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, adding that the rotation agreement with the Likud "is not the main thing," though the Alignment "will honor all agreements." Peres revealed that Egypt and Israel have already agreed that the side which does not gain sovereignty over Tabah should enjoy free passage and the right to jointly manage the area, the radio noted. He also said the Palestinian autonomy issue "has died" and there is no agreement for the continuation of discussion on this matter. The radio subsequently broadcast Peres' warning that the present time may be "the last opportunity to solve the Palestinian problem in a suitable way" and that the Palestinians are wasting time and are "too busy with plays."

However, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir sharply criticized Peres' remarks on the end of the autonomy talks during a speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Peres had "no authority or right" to make his "serious and unilateral" declaration that the autonomy talks have been shelved, Shamir asserted, adding that

Peres should retract his remark as a "slip of the tongue and a mistake."

Comment on U.S. Relations — Israeli officials viewed the 12 December raid by U.S. Customs on a company exporting defense equipment to Israel as part of a U.S. Government "harassment campaign" against Israel, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported. In a related report, *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* contended that "certain U.S. circles" in the Pentagon and the Justice Department are attempting to "sabotage" the tight cooperation between the United States and Israel. Nevertheless, Israeli political circles cited by *HA'ARETZ* maintained that the "interruption" in U.S.-Israeli intelligence cooperation is only temporary.

Israeli Concern Over Syrian SAM Deployment

Syria's recent deployment of SAM-2's in the Al-Zabadani mountain ridge close to the Lebanese border impairs Israel's ability to gather information about terrorist targets in the Al-Biq'a Valley and to strike at them, Jerusalem radio reported 15 December. The Israeli chief of staff likewise stated in remarks broadcast by IDF radio that the stationing of such missiles near the border has a "disruptive effect and significantly impairs" the Israeli Air Force's freedom of flight over Lebanon. Prime Minister Peres told Jerusalem radio that Israel will "seriously" examine Syria's new SAM deployment, but he stressed that Israel does not want any military confrontation or escalation.

As for Syria's naval power, Damascus radio noted that "several new naval units" supplied by the Soviet Union were incorporated into the Syrian Navy during a 14 December ceremony attended by the Armed Forces chief of staff and the Soviet ambassador to Damascus.

PLO Concern Over Israeli Intentions

The PLO leadership has placed its forces in the YAR and Sudan on maximum alert after receiving information about "suspicious" Israeli air activity, PLO official Mahmud 'Abbas disclosed in remarks reported by WAKH. He also claimed that U.S. aircraft recently "intercepted" PDRY planes over the Red Sea in an act of "clear provocation."

The PLO official's expressed concern over a possible Israeli strike at PLO bases in Sanaa and Khartoum followed Radio Monte Carlo's disclosure, citing a Palestinian source in Tunis, that the PLO has begun redeploying personnel from Tunis to several other Arab capitals including Khartoum and Sanaa in order to maintain a state of alert in preparation for an escalation of military operations in the Israeli-occupied territories. The PLO leadership will remain in Tunis, the source said, but the military command is now in the YAR.

Libya: Reported Acquisition of SAM-5's

London's *THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH* reported that the Soviet Union is supplying Libya with over 100 SAM-5's, which will be installed in bases outside Tripoli and Benghazi and near the Egyptian border. The USSR is sending 2,000 advisers to install the system and teams of Soviet instructors are expected to train Libyan crews to operate the missiles, according to the newspaper, which cited "diplomatic reports from Cairo and Libya."

Iranian Foreign Relations

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran's *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* that Iran will "reconsider its relations" with the countries that voted against Iran in approving the UN resolution on alleged Iranian human rights violations, IRNA revealed. As for relations with Syria, Damascus radio noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received visiting Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami 15 December, adding that Khatami conveyed a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i. The Al-Shariqah paper *AL-KHALIJ* cited reports that the Syrian prime minister's recent visit to Iran helped solve many outstanding problems between the two countries and induced Iran to end its opposition to the Syrian-Jordanian rapprochement and to Syria's policy in Lebanon.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Syrian troops surrounded Hizballah forces in Al-Biqa' and circulated a "memorandum" calling for the arrest of the area's Hizballah leader after he failed

to stop at a Syrian Army checkpoint. Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, who is visiting Tehran, praised Iran's efforts to end the recent internal clashes in Tripoli, according to Tehran radio.

Further Claims on Plane Crash

The "Organization for the Liberation of Egypt" claimed responsibility for the 12 December crash of an American plane in Canada, AFP reported from Paris.

Sudan

Commenting on the reported emergence of the Islamic Jihad Organization in Sudan, Chairman of the Transitional Military Council Siwar al-Dhahab condemned the use of force to eliminate political opponents and warned that he will not allow the people's choice of democracy to be subverted. In remarks at a press conference reported by SUNA, the Sudanese leader also asserted that rebel leader John Garang has ignored calls for an end to the fighting, citing the Kurmuk incidents as an example of the rebels' expansion of operations into "northern regions."

KUNA reported that "over one thousand" Ethiopian Jews entered Sudan 8-14 December in what "may be feared" is another attempt to airlift Falashas to Israel. Citing informed sources, the agency revealed that the Falashas are under "strict control" in refugee camps.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Reagan Stand on Human Rights Termed Hollow Rhetorics
LD151102 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, December 14, BAKHTAR — While the whole world was celebrating the glorious Human Rights Day, the Afghan counter-revolution marked the day by exploding bombs and committing inhuman crimes against innocent civilian people, and disclosed once again their actual misanthropic, criminal and terroristic essence.

What circles are behind these crimes? It is an established fact that those who are supporting and financing such crimes against humanity are carrying on fictitious propaganda campaigns styling themselves as the guardian of human rights, but in effect are the enemies of humanity and the very organisers of international terrorism.

Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, asserted in his speech at the function held at the White House on the occasion of Human Rights Day that the USA is the champion of freedom and human rights throughout the world. Reagan said in this context that he was more proud than ever on his achievements in this respect.

Reagan is mistaken. The Washington administration should be ashamed of its ignominious crimes against the peoples of the world, for violating even the most elementary rights of the peoples, supporting, financing and organising international terrorisms for its frantic quest for perpetrating destructive wars, plundering of the wealth of other peoples of the world and tens of other crimes. It is the Washington administration and its allies that provide terroristic trainings, arming and equipping the Afghan counter-revolution.

All the world public are well aware that the leaders of the Afghan counter-revolution act according to the instructions of their U.S. masters, who receive them with hugs at the White House. The reagan Administration not only trains and arms the counter-revolution, but it does not refrain from extending its undivided and unreserved moral support to these criminal bands.

The Afghan counter-revolution is relying upon the military and political support of the U.S. imperialism and its allies. Only the U.S. assistance of hundreds of millions of dollars enable them to continue their crimes against the innocent people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The black scroll of the crimes of the counter-revolution such as planting of bombs in crowded localities, using chemical weapons against civilian people, and poisoning drinking water supplies, causing death to innocent children, women and elderly men, and destruction of public utilities, is very long. However, it will suffice to recall the bomb explosions in the mosque of the Polytechnic Institute of Kabul City, the terminal of Kabul International Airport and the micro-ayon market, as well as the shooting down of the passenger airplane of the BAKHTAR Afghan Airlines. All these crimes were organised against civilian people.

These are open crimes against innocent civilian people and divesting them of their most primary rights, that is the right to life.

The U.S. imperialism has never denounced the Afghan counter-revolution for its crimes against humanity or its surrogate despotic and sanguinary regimes of Chile, Guatemala, South Africa and other corners of the world for violating human rights. On the contrary, it has supported and patronised their crimes.

Now, the essence of humanism of the Reagan administration is an open secret to all the people. Reagan cannot deceive any one with his hollow rhetorics regarding human rights.

Karmal Meets Soviet Judicial Delegation, Speaks
LD160008 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon met the high-ranking judicial delegation of the Soviet Union headed by Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Smolentsev, which is on a friendly visit in our revolutionary country at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

A BIA correspondent reports that during this meeting, which took place in a friendly and sincere atmosphere, Babrak Karmal discussed the consolidation of democratic law in the DRA, the attention of the party and revolutionary state toward a sound and forthright implementation of the orders of the laws, the inculcation of court employees with the spirit of honesty and patriotism before the new and democratic system, and respect for the rights and prestige of DRA subjects.

Babrak Karmal said: Judicial organs of the DRA, with complete consideration of the democratic and revolutionary legality in the country, in a free and democratic climate according to the orders of the current laws, try the accused, sentenced and even the counterrevolutionary bands and armed rebels before the people of the country. No criminal will be punished without a trial.

Babrak Karmal discussed the changes which have occurred in the political, social and economic life of the workers of revolutionary Afghanistan after the glorious April Revolution, especially its new development stage, and expressed appreciation for the internationalist cooperations of the great land of the Soviets in the various spheres of Afghanistan. He wished further expansion and consolidation of the friendly relations and fruitful cooperation between the states, governments, and people of the two friendly countries.

The judicial delegation of the Soviet Union expressed joy in visiting the leader of the people of Afghanistan.

PDPA Secretaries Participate in Province Session
LD140910 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Excerpt] Principled policies of the party and the revolutionary government on the blossoming of revolutionary Afghanistan and on the all aspects of our people's life were confirmed at a meeting yesterday by elders and leaders of Popalzai, Achekzai, and

Norzayi and they renewed their promises in realization of the progressive programs of the party and government.

Nur Ahmad Nur, member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke at the meeting about the importance and value of the progressive programs of the party and revolutionary government in the interest of the people. He comprehensively explained the value of local organ and state administration laws by which toiling people of revolutionary Afghanistan through their representatives directly participate in the affairs of the state, and specified the duties of the meeting participants, in particular elders and leaders, to implement and explain the local organ and state administration laws among their tribes.

At the Jirga, Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and a number of party, and state officials of Qandahar Province also participated.

A number of leaders of the tribes assured Nur Ahmad Nur that the tribes of Popalzai, Achekzai and Nurzayi in conjunction with the party and revolutionary government are prepared for any cooperation to implement all state laws and in particular the local organs and state administration laws.

According to another report, Nur Ahmad Nur and Mir Saheb Karwal participated at the gatherings of guardians of revolution and ulama and religious leaders separately.

Melbourne: Afghanistan Holding Kidnapped Aid Workers

*BK140654 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0430 GMT 14 Dec 85*

[Text] Afghanistan says it is holding two Australian aid workers who were kidnapped by tribesmen in southern Pakistan 7 months ago. According to the Australian Embassy in Islamabad, the Afghan ambassador in New York admitted that the government was holding the couple, Robert and Jeannie Williamson. The embassy said it had been told that the two were safe and had not been harmed, adding however that it did not know where the couple were being held.

The Williamsons were kidnapped by tribesmen near the Pakistani city of Quetta and taken into southern Afghanistan. They were used as hostages in an attempt to have a tribal leader released from a Pakistani jail. The leader was subsequently released. However, the Williamsons remain in the custody of the tribe.

The Australian Embassy spokesman said he did not know what would happen to the Williamsons now. He said it was not known how long the Afghan Government would hold the couple, adding that it would be difficult for Kabul to explain the long delay in releasing them.

Jeddah: Mujahidin Coalition Forms Joint Council

*GF131649 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 13 Dec 85*

[Text] A spokesman for the Afghan mujahidin coalition has announced that the Islamic Union of Afghan Mujahidin, a coalition that includes the seven major parties of the Afghan resistance movement against Soviet occupation and which was established in May 1985, has formed a council and six committees charged with coordinating and unifying the work of all parties within the framework of the Islamic Union of Afghan Mujahidin.

In a press conference held in Peshawar, the leaders of the 7 parties included in the coalition said that the coalition's Executive Council consists of 56 members from the 7 parties.

The coalition earlier formed a military committee charged with coordinating battle operations. The six new committees have been charged with carrying out their tasks in the fields of media, foreign policy, culture, health, education, and refugee affairs.

Jeddah Reports Fierce Fighting in Paktia Province

*GF142009 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 14 Dec 85*

[Text] Islamabad reports say that fierce fighting is currently going on between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Afghan forces since last night in Jajay [Ali Khayl], Paktia, near the Pakistani border. The resistance sources said that the mujahidin laid siege to a Soviet-Afghan garrison in Jajay and captured 12 strategic positions of the Soviet forces in the hills surrounding Jajay and a large quantity of the garrison's weapons. The Soviet forces pushed ground and air reinforcements to the region to break up the siege. This resulted in the aforementioned fierce fighting, which is continuing. Reports from the battle grounds say that tens of Afghan soldiers fled under the cover of darkness from the garrison's ranks and joined the mujahidin.

Ershad Addresses Nation; To Allow Open Politics*BK151531 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1332 GMT 15 Dec 85*

[President Ershad's 15 December address to the nation over radio and television — on the eve of Victory Day — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim [in the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful]; dear countrymen, Assalamo 'Alaikum [peace be upon you]. Tomorrow is 16 December, the day our dear motherland, Bangladesh, was born. It is the day of the great struggle of the people of Bangladesh for the establishment of their nation. Those whose tremendous sacrifice led to our great victory are our national heroes.

Dear countrymen, the main objective of our war of independence was to establish an independent country, a sovereign nation, a democratic state and a society free from exploitation. We gained our freedom on this day 14 years ago. But when we look back we find that still today we could not attain a democratic system and exploitationless society where the hopes of the people for economic emancipation can be obtained. Our common people demand very little. They want an easy and simple life free from need and anxiety. They want a government composed of people who can reach nearer to their hearts. They want an administration which will not exploit them but serve them. They want food, clothing, shelter, medicine and education for their children. They want security for their lives and property. These are not big demands. I can state today on the eve of the 16th December that at the blessings of the great merciful God a spontaneous initiative has been taken recently to build a new Bangladesh.

I and my government are committed to the transition to democracy and constitutional rule. Establishment of an elected government within the shortest period of time is my declared principle. Political progress has already started to create a congenial atmosphere for the holding of national elections. As part of this process, open political activities will be started from the 1st of next January.

I believe that nationalism and not narrow selfish-interest should be the inspiring force for all our work to achieve the main objectives of our war of independence. We have wasted much time and can not misuse opportunities anymore. There should not be anymore destruction, indiscipline, and hatred.

Dear countrymen, let the same spirit of unity and discipline which we demonstrated during the war of independence, make our future bright. The patience, political farsightedness, and responsibility that have honored us as a nation during the SARC summit — that same spirit should remain intact in the transition to democracy through elections.

Come, let us establish Bangladesh as a happy, prosperous, democratic nation on the world map. This was the pledge made during the war of independence. This was the dream of the hundreds and thousands of martyrs who sacrificed their blood. God willing, we will be successful in fulfilling their dreams. God gives us blessings. Goodbye. Long Live Bangladesh.

Government To Release 116 Prisoners on Victory Day*BK141606 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 14 Dec 85*

[Text] The government has decided to release 116 prisoners on the occasion of the Victory Day. They include persons detained under the Special Powers Act and undertrial prisoners. Government hopes the concerned persons appreciate the gesture by refraining from crimes and unlawful activities and contribute their might in making a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Praises Gandhi on Ganges Sharing*BK131028 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali
0635 GMT 13 Dec 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has described as good India's desire to hold joint discussions on Ganges water sharing for mutual benefit. Commenting on a remark made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, the foreign minister said in Dhaka yesterday that Bangladesh is very pleased with this as it is a positive step. The remark reflects the feelings among the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] countries that has been noticed following its creation. King Birendra of Nepal has reaffirmed his country's eagerness at the SARC summit to participate in any cooperative step to augment the common river water in the region.

Gandhi in Assam, Criticizes Sectarian Parties

*BK131604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
13 Dec 85*

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said his government is committed to root out violence and terrorism from the country. Addressing a series of public meetings in Assam, he said socioeconomic development and vocational education are being given top priority throughout the country. Mr Gandhi warned the people against disruptive forces who are trying to destroy the unity and integrity of the country for vested interest. He said India is a vast country with diverse cultures and religions. Unity in diversity is our main strength and we must maintain it at any cost. He criticized the formation of regional parties on communal lines or representing just a group and said this would only retard the development of the state.

Voting Begins in Assam, Other States 16 Dec

*BK160322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Text] In Assam, polling has begun to elect the 125 members of the state assembly and 14 representatives of the Lok Sabha. Election to one assembly constituency, Golokganj, was countermanded following the death of a candidate. In today's poll, more than 9,887,000 voters are involved. They are to cast their votes to 13,705 polling stations set up all over the state. A record number of candidates — 1,128 — are in the fray for assembly seats, and 106 candidates are contesting for the Lok Sabha seats. There is no straight contest, and only one constituency is witnessing a triangular contest. The rest are having multicornered contests.

All India Radio special correspondent Jagmohan Lal Mathur, after touring some parts of Guwahati, says voters have started gathering at the polling booths. In Dispur Constituency, women voters dressed in their traditional dress have stood up in large numbers. Our correspondent reports large gathering is seen in (Chalukbari), Guwahati West, and Guwahati East polling stations. Our Dibrugarh correspondent reports voters in great numbers have thronged the polling booths. In Tezpur, polling has begun on an enthusiastic note.

After going around some polling booths in the area, our correspondent says that, braving the cold, a fairly good number of people are seen standing in queues since the early hours to cast their votes.

Polling is also in progress for the by-election in seven Lok Sabha and nine assembly seats and one metroolitan seat in Delhi. First election results are expected by tomorrow evening.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for a smooth and orderly poll. Seventeen observers have been appointed. Adequate police force has been deployed to maintain law and order. Mobile patrol parties will ensure that the voters exercise their franchise fearlessly.

Voting Reported Brisk, Peaceful

*BK160908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] In Assam, brisk polling is reported from different areas. According to information received at the state headquarters in Guwahati, about 50 percent voters cast their votes before 1300. In Guwahati, in all the four constituencies, polling is reported very heavy. AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, J.L. Mathur, after visiting several polling booths, reports that more than 50 percent voters have already cast their votes before 1230 this afternoon, and long queues were seen where people were waiting their turns. The situation throughout the state is reported to be normal. No untoward incident has been reported.

Voting Ends Peacefully

*BK161308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Text] Polling ended peacefully this evening in Assam to elect 125 members to the state assembly and 14 representatives to the Lok Sabha. AIR correspondent from Silchar reports that in Karimganj District, 60 to 70 percent voters have cast their votes. In Katlicherra constituency, 70 to 90 percent votes were cast. In some polling booths in Hajo assembly constituency, 80 percent of voters exercised their franchise by 1400. according to the Election Commission sources, the average polling in the state is 65 percent.

The AIR Dibrugarh correspondent says tea garden laborers turned up in large numbers in the polling stations of Dibrugarh, Lahowal, Chabua, and Duliajan constituencies. In Dibrugarh and neighboring areas, long queues were seen at many polling booths even after the stipulated time for polling.

Peaceful polling has been reported in the by-elections to the seven Lok Sabha and nine assembly seats in various states. Reports from most of these constituencies based on the figures available till midday indicate that the polling had been brisk. Our correspondent who visited a few polling booths in the Bolpur Lok Sabha constituency in West Bengal reports that voters turned out in large numbers. In the Churu parliamentary constituency in Rajasthan and in the Banka and Kishanganj Constituencies in Bihar, the turnout was about 35 percent till 1400. However, in the South Delhi Lok Sabha Constituency, most of the polling centers reported 20 to 25 percent turnout by 1300.

Amritsar Bans Assembly of 5 or More Until 13 Feb

*BK151608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
15 Dec 85*

[Text] In Punjab, the Amritsar district authorities have reimposed a ban on holding of processions, demonstrations, meetings and assemblies of five or more persons. The ban will be in effect for a period of 2 months, till 13 February. Marriage and funeral processions are, however, exempted from the order.

'Strong Protest' Lodged on 12-13 Dec Afghan Shelling*BK151536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
15 Dec 85*

[Text] The Karmal forces fired one artillery shell into Pakistani territory near Tirah Kotal in Kurram Agency at 1540 on last Friday [1040 GMT 13 December], killing four women and wounding a child. The armed forces of the Karmal regime also fired eight artillery rounds in the Nawa Pass region of the Mohmand Agency at 1400 last Thursday [0900 GMT 12 December]. An envoy of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office and a strong protest was lodged on this brutal act.

Foreign Minister Departs, Discusses Afghanistan*BK141030 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
14 Dec 85*

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad for Geneva early this morning to participate in the sixth round of indirect talks on Afghanistan which begins on Monday [16 December]. Speaking to newsmen at the airport, he said this round of indirect talks will be extremely significant and delicate. He said we have reached a stage where the most crucial issue of the talks, which is connected with the withdrawal of Soviet forces, should be dealt with, and with utmost sincerity and honesty. The foreign minister said the summit meeting between U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev has special importance in this matter because, according to reports, the Soviet Union reacted positively on Afghanistan.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it will continuously maintain a constructive and positive attitude and will make every possible effort to settle this problem. He expressed the hope that there would be progress toward an acceptable settlement of this problem at the talks.

The foreign minister said that as regards the settlement of this problem through talks we should neither be too optimistic nor should there be any need for pessimism. Pakistan has always cooperated with the United Nations in connection with the settlement of this problem, and it will continue to do so without making any deals on principles.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said mutual trust between the parties participating in the talks is very essential for desired progress in settling this problem. In reply to another question he said Pakistan's stand on this problem is absolutely clear and there is no question of direct talks with the Karmal regime.

Official Statement Issued on Khyber Operation*BK160642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Text] An official statement issued in Peshawar today says that as a result of an operation against the antisocial elements in Khyber Agency, some 300 houses, 57 temporary shops, and (?cables) have been dismantled in Landi Kotal revenue area since last Wednesday. In addition to this, 24 rifles brought from across the border have been deposited voluntarily with the political authorities and 26 heroin processing laboratories have been destroyed.

Tribal Leader Pledges To Defend Nation*BK160739 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Text] A prominent tribal leader of the Khyber Agency, Malik Ahmed Jan, has said that the tribal people have made great sacrifices for the establishment of Pakistan, and they will not flinch from any sacrifices in the future to safeguard the independence, solidarity, and security of the country. In an interview with Radio Pakistan's Peshawar correspondent, he said Pakistan is a fortress of Islam, and every tribal is committed to dealing firmly with anybody who casts an evil eye on Pakistan.

UN Acceptance of Proposal on Nuclear Free Zone Noted*BK131034 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
13 Dec 85*

[Text] The UN General Assembly has approved Pakistani proposal for a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia and strengthening security guarantees to nonnuclear weapon states. India, Bhutan, and Mauritius voted against the resolution on the nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia which received 112 votes in favor. Forty-one countries abstained. The Pakistani proposal on security guarantees to nonnuclear weapons states was approved by 142 votes. Six countries, including India and the United States, abstained.

'Heavy Fighting' Reported at Strategic Afghan Post*BK141038 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
14 Dec 85*

[Text] In Afghanistan, a strategic military post of Jajay Chhaoni [barracks] in Paktia Province is reported to have been besieged by the mujahidin who are engaged in heavy fighting with the Soviet-Karmal (?troops). The fighting started last night and is reported to be continuing. The mujahidin have occupied several points of military importance and have captured a (?quantity) of weapons.

MALDIVES

Karachi Reports on Ziaul Haq's Arrival 15 Dec

*BK151656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
15 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq arrived in the Maldives capital of Male on a 2-day state visit to that country today. He was received by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom at the airport. Bugles were played on the president's arrival and he was given a 21-gun-salute. The two leaders warmly shook hands and embraced. A contingent of the national security force presented him an honor guard and took the salute. Cabinet ministers, prominent citizens, and senior officials were present on the occasion. Pakistanis residing in Male were also present to receive the president. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq met with President Gayoom shortly after arriving in Male.

Reports Zia-Gayoom Talks

*BK160338 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq held talks with his Maldivian counterpart, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in the Maldives last night. The talks, which were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere, covered bilateral relations and economic issues. In-depth discussions were also held on regional and international issues.

The delegations of the two countries assisted their heads of state during talks which were followed by the signing of an agreement for economic and technical cooperation by Pakistani and Maldivian ministers in the presence of the two heads of state. The agreement was signed by Pakistani Finance Minister Dr Mahbubul Haq and Maldivian Foreign Minister Fatulla Jameel. After the signing of the agreement, the Pakistani finance minister said an institutional arrangement has been made for economic and technical cooperation between the Maldives and Pakistan. He expressed the hope that bilateral economic cooperation will strengthen further.

Zia, Gayoom Banquet Speeches

*BK160541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
16 Dec 85*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan and the Maldives follow identical policies in international affairs because they are inspired by the vision of world peace and cooperation. Speaking at a banquet hosted in his honor by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in Male last night, the president said the two countries are not only committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, but are also steadfastly striving to strengthen them. They also fully respect the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference, and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states. As developing nations, the president said, Pakistan and the Maldives face similar problems

and challenges and share common aspirations. Both are endeavoring to formulate and execute their policies in accordance with the Islamic principles of justice and equality.

Referring to President Gayoom's visit to Pakistan, Mohammad Ziaul Haq said they had identified areas of bilateral cooperation during that visit. He expressed the hope that his current visit will increase bilateral cooperation in the economic, educational, and cultural fields.

On the Afghan problem, the president said it poses a serious threat not only to the South Asian region but also to global peace. He said substantial progress has been made at the indirect Geneva talks, but a final solution to this problem depends on Soviet readiness to withdraw forces from Afghanistan within a reasonable time. He also called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab lands, including Al-Quds, and for the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. He described the recent Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis as a blatant violation of recognized principles of international law and the worst example of terrorism by any country. He said the Israeli raid has not only escalated tension but also increased bitterness.

The president said that, as friends and brothers, Pakistan and the Maldives appeal to Iran and Iraq to end the war between brothers and to resolve their disputes peacefully.

The president also called upon the international community to take effective steps to force the South African regime to abandon its policy of racial discrimination and violence against African people.

On nuclear weapons, the president said these weapons have endangered the very survival of mankind, and that is why Pakistan, like the Maldives, calls upon nuclear-weapons states to renounce them.

About the recent summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Dhaka, the president said he and President Gayoom think that there is great scope for promoting mutual confidence and trust among member nations and for opening new avenues of regional economic cooperation under this organization. The president expressed his heartfelt gratitude at the enthusiastic welcome and hospitality accorded to him and to the members of his delegation.

Earlier in his speech, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom paid rich tribute to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and to the people of Pakistan, describing Pakistan as a fortress of Islam. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts to enforce an Islamic system and said the entire Muslim world views these efforts with due respect. He thanked Pakistan for providing training facilities to the Maldives in various administrative and economic fields. President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan and its humanitarian gesture of providing shelter to over 3 million Afghan refugees on its soil have been appreciated by the entire world community. He said Pakistan and the Maldives share identical views on regional and international issues.

SRI LANKA

Jaffna 'Virtually Paralyzed' by PLOT-Called Strike

HK140816 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (AFP) — A strike protesting the killing of three separatist Tamils by a rival guerrilla group virtually paralyzed Sri Lanka's northern capital Jaffna today, residents said. Shops closed, state and private-owned buses stayed parked, and some officials stayed away from work in support of a call by the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) for a peaceful protest in the form of a strike, residents said.

Three PLOT members were killed Wednesday in a clash with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) over the hijacking of a vehicle, official sources said earlier.

The PLOT yesterday put up posters blaming the LTTE, generally considered as the most violent of the numerous militant groups, for the killings and canvassed support for the strike to mourn and protest the deaths. The two groups are among the leaders of a bloody campaign for an independent Tamil state in the Tamil-dominated north and east alleging discrimination by the national majority Sinhalese.

Rail services to the north were suspended from yesterday, after a bomb blast suspected to have been set by Tamils blew up carriages of a train in Colombo Thursday, reports said today.

Government Denies Indian Report on Civilian Killings

BK141132 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] The government has denied a report appearing in *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* newspaper accusing Sri Lankan security forces of killing two civilians in Jaffna recently. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the local correspondent of the newspaper has dispatched a highly mischievous and distorted report from Colombo. This report states that in Jaffna town two people died on the spot when the army opened fire last Thursday [12 December]. The report added that four people were injured by army shooting. It further said that the army was returning to camp after an unsuccessful search operation.

The national news agency, LANKA PUWATH, says the report in *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* is designed to show that the security forces opened fire on civilians without any provocation. The report does not mention that the terrorists attacked the security forces patrol by firing on them. It also does not state that the two civilians were killed in the cross fire between the Marxist terrorists and the security forces.

Zia Hosts Banquet for Jayewardene, Speaks

BK141201 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan and Sri Lanka desire tension-free relations with their neighboring

countries based on the principles of respect for political independence, regional security, and noninterference in the internal affairs of one another. He was speaking at a return banquet in honor of Sri Lankan President Jayewardene in Colombo last night. The president said there are traditional and friendly relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and both the countries respect each other. Both countries have always supported each other and wish each other well. He said he strongly believes that due to his current visit, friendship between the two countries will be further strengthened.

The president said that during the past few days he and Sri Lankan President Jayewardene had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral matters and regional and international problems. Both countries want to play a vital role individually and jointly for the establishment of peace and stability in South Asia. He said the people of Pakistan support the people of Sri Lanka in their individual and collective efforts for the restoration of peace and harmony in their country.

Referring to the recent visit of President Jayewardene to Pakistan, the president said the extent of cooperation between the two countries has increased considerably. His reciprocal visit within a few months is reflective of Pakistan's earnest desire to promote bilateral relations further.

The president said the significant progress made by Sri Lanka in all spheres of national development is praiseworthy. He expressed the hope that under the wise leadership of President Jayewardene, Sri Lanka will march ahead on the path of welfare and well-being. The president thanked the president and the people of Sri Lanka for extending an unforgettable reception to him and the members of his delegation.

Zia Speaks to Press, Departs

BK151131 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Pakistani President General Ziaul Haq left for home [as heard] this morning at the conclusion of his 5-day state visit to Sri Lanka. He was seen off at the Katunayake Airport by Minister M.H. Mohammad; the chief of protocol, R.P. Jayasinghe; and General (Stepal Artigella). The Pakistani ambassador in Sri Lanka, Tariq Mohammad Mir, was also present.

Before leaving the country, General Zia told newsmen in Colombo that his state visit to Sri Lanka was extremely fruitful and effective in all aspects and it had further strengthened the existing bilateral relations in the economic, trade, and cultural fields. He expressed his gratitude to President Jayewardene, Prime Minister Premadasa, and the people of Sri Lanka for the warm and cordial welcome accorded to him during his 5-day stay in the island.

President Zia pledged maximum assistance to Sri Lanka for the preservation of its integrity and sovereignty. He stressed that no country should encourage activities to wreck one country by its internal elements.

He also said that Pakistan had developed closer and friendly relationship with the Indian Government during the past (few) years.

Referring to the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], President Zia said that it had a tremendous scope for the future economic prospects of the member countries. He said that 1 billion people of the member countries could enjoy the benefits of the outcome of this summit in the future. He hoped that the Geneva talks starting tomorrow would bring positive results for existing problems.

He expressed Pakistan's willingness to share Sri Lankan experience to promote its tourist industry for which he sought the assistance of the Government of Sri Lanka.

Karachi Reports Press Conference

*BK151652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
15 Dec 85*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has described his visit to Sri Lanka as memorable and very useful. He said it is difficult to explain in words the magnanimity of the sincere love and cordiality displayed during his visit and the way they were welcomed and accorded hospitality. He said this while addressing a news conference in Colombo prior to his departure for the Maldives this morning after a 5-day visit to Sri Lanka.

Referring to his talks with President Jayewardene, he said that they had had very useful talks on regional and international issues. We hold identical views on the Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Cambodia. The president said that they also had very constructive talks on stabilizing bilateral relations. Proposals have come from both sides to further expand trade and economic relations. The existing trade of \$60 million between the two countries will be increased to \$100 million and then to \$200 million during the next 2 years. The president said agreement has also been reached to enhance cultural ties between the two countries, and that they will sign a cultural agreement encompassing areas of culture, education, and information.

In reply to a question, the president said Pakistan is trying to normalize relations with India. It has been his personal and the

Pakistan Government's effort to improve bilateral relations. The Indian prime minister will also play a positive role in this regard, he hoped.

In reply to another question, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan's nuclear program is of a modest, peaceful, and experimental nature. He said Pakistan neither has the capability to use nuclear technology for military purposes, nor does it have any intention to do so.

In reply to another question, the president said that his government held elections as pledged, and he was elected president. He said martial law will be lifted by the end of this month. He said the fact is that martial law has been in force for the last 2 years in name only. We have established a parliamentary government with an elected parliament and provincial assemblies, he added.

On Afghanistan, the president said that he hopes the sixth round of indirect talks in Geneva will prove useful in containing the Afghanistan situation and may yield some positive results. He said that all sides, including the Soviet Union, are convinced that the issue cannot be solved through military means, and a peaceful settlement can be achieved only through negotiations. The president said that the four principles that are being negotiated in Geneva are related to withdrawal of foreign forces.

Answering another question, the president said that Pakistan is not an arms exporting country. However, it is ready to help Sri Lanka to the fullest extent whether morally, politically, or economically, or by whatever other means. In reply to another question, he said Pakistan condemns terrorism, whatever form it may take, or one who propagates and practically commits it. He strongly rejected the allegation that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of India by any means. He said that we support India's security and its steps to contain the internal situation.

On South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC], President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that there is wide scope for promoting bilateral and multilateral relations through this organization. But we have to move forward with caution. He said that SARC can play an important role in security, progress, prosperity, and social welfare sectors.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Repeats Conditions To End War

*GF131339 Tehran Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 13 Nov 85*

[Arabic Friday sermon by Tehran ad interim Friday Imam Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and Imam Khomeyni's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, on 13 November at Tehran University — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Thanks be to the Almighty. Peace be on God's messenger and His pure scion. Peace be on the pious worshippers.

The Muslims of the world are witnessing how the Iranian people, the strugglers and the disdainful, look forward to taking part in the holy fighting fronts. This spirit and morale emerged among our people before the victory of the revolution. This crystallized at the beginning of the aggression of the Ba'th 'Aflaqists against the Iran of Islam. It can be said that this morale has absolutely not declined; on the contrary it invigorated and took root in the hearts of the people.

It is surprising that some Islamic countries, especially our neighbors, have continued to support the aggressor and not cooperate with us to achieve justice and real peace in the region, although it has become clear that Saddam is trying to extend the war to all the Persian Gulf states. However, through our solid policy and self-control we have prevented him from fulfilling his sinister aims. We are optimistic about the awakening that has recently begun to grow in these countries. We hope that this trend will continue among everyone so that we will be able to achieve real peace and security in the region by punishing the aggressor. In this way, we will be able to record a history lesson for all those intending to undermine people's resources.

Despite our complete readiness to enter Iraqi territory and annihilate the Ba'thist henchmen, we have held back from launching our fateful and comprehensive attack, hoping that this relative awakening by the protectors of Iraq will lead to the fulfillment of our rights and those of the oppressed Iraqi people without further destruction and bloodshed.

We are prepared to move ahead on this path, the path of patience and waiting for another time, provided that Saddam does not commit a new crime. But we announce that our patience and self-restraint will not be permanent, so if they do not give in to justice, then the set moment will come. We only demand putting the criminal aggressor on trial and punishing him, in addition to compensation for losses, and the liberation of the Iraqi people. If our demands are met, we will then have no ambitions on a single inch of Iraqi territory. We will be fully ready to rebuild an Islamic and free Iraq after it has been devastated by its rulers, the enemies of Islam and freedom. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

When God's help and victory come and you see the people entering God's religion in throngs, praise your Lord and ask His forgiveness, for He turns again unto men. [Koranic verse]

French Parliamentary Delegation Arrives Tehran 14 Dec

LD140639 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — A French parliamentary delegation headed by Jean-Marie Daillet, a member of U.D.F. (Union for Democracy of France) arrived here, Friday night to explore possibilities for improvement of relations between the two countries.

The four-member french delegation includes two members of the Socialist Party and two of the U.D.F.

During the five-year-old imposed war, France has proved to be one of the major supporters of the Baghdad regime by meeting its arms requirements. Meanwhile, France has provided shelter for the Iranian counterrevolutionaries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has set three conditions for improvement of strained relations with France: halting French arms supply and its economic aid to Iraq, expulsion of Iranian terrorists from France, and finally, payment of its 1.5-billion-dollar overdue debt to Iran.

Talks With Majlis Official

LD151054 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — The visiting French parliamentary delegation, headed by Jean-Marie Daillet, held a two-hour meeting with the head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Majlis (Parliament), Ahmad 'Azizi, here Saturday afternoon [14 December].

During the meeting which took place at the Majlis building, 'Azizi referred to obstacles on the way of mutual relations.

'Azizi explained policy of the Majlis Republic of Iran, claiming for continuation of peaceful relations with non-hostile countries and also stressed the need for further expansion of mutual relations with non-hostile countries and also stressed the need for further expansion of mutual relations guaranteeing interests of the two nations.

Furthermore, 'Azizi told the four-member French delegation that there was a need for basic changes in hostile economic, political and military policies of the French Government towards the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He also pointed out that the French Government should take fundamental steps to improve its attitude towards Iran in future.

The French delegation arrived here Friday night.

Velayati Receives Nicaraguan Information Minister

LD141624 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 14, IRNA — The visiting Nicaraguan minister of press and information, Manuel Spinoza, met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday. During the meeting he reported on the situation in his country and pressures exerted by U.S. imperialism on Nicaraguan revolution.

Velayati, reiterating solidarity and cooperation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran with the Nicaraguan revolution, said that U.S. imperialism was imposing force upon other countries.

He added that the U.S. imperialism either installed lackey regimes such as the one in Chile or resort to military occupation like in Grenada, or resorted to economic, military and political sanctions like in Iran and in Nicaragua.

The foreign minister reiterated cooperation of the two countries for further expansion of bilateral relations

Foreign Minister on Ties With Nations After UN Vote
LD151118 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Sunday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its relations with countries which have voted against Iran and approved a U.N. General Assembly's resolution alleging Iran of having violated human rights.

Speaking in an interview with the morning daily *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, he added that those who supported the resolution were not in favour of human rights, by doing so they intended to exert political pressure on Iran.

Criticising U.S. violation against American Indians and black Americans the foreign minister stressed that accusations against Iran were based on fabricated reports of a number of fugitives and counterrevolutionaries, most of whom have committed crimes in Iran.

The foreign minister said that undoubtedly those who voted for the resolution would no longer be considered as friendly states and, therefore, Iran will reconsider its economic and political relations with those countries.

However, he stressed, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not give in to blackmail and believes that such measures are in fact a reaction to Iran's unceasing anti-imperialistic campaign throughout the world.

Tehran Radio Responds to Reagan Speech on Baha'is
GF140424 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has become the first defender of human rights and has reiterated more than anyone the motto of granting rights and securing freedom. We have continually heard such words in speeches of U.S. presidents. Now, it is the turn of the successor of the union of human rights, Ronald Reagan. Yesterday, the U.S. President stood at the rostrum, which is constructed from the skulls of innocent people, and trampled the bodies of the victims of U.S. aggression to make a speech on people's freedom and human rights. What a mockery! How ridiculous is this contradictory world which does not recognize justice or rights!

We wish to ask: How does the U.S. President qualify himself as the primary defender of human rights when he knows of his own violations of people's rights — especially deprived people? How can he allow himself to speak about human rights in some countries while trampling upon these rights through collaboration with despotic governments against innocent souls? How does he make himself the lawyer and defender of Bahaism in the Islamic Republic, while he is the reason for the barbarous massacres of his Zionist agents and the Phalangists against Muslims in Lebanon?

The U.S. President's attempt to rid himself of accusations and attach them to others is doomed to failure. For example, Reagan's statement about alleged oppression suffered by the Baha'is in the Islamic Republic is baseless. There exists proof against these allegations. The Islamic Republic's Constitution affirms and recognizes religious tolerance based on the Koranic principle — you to your religion, and I to mine. The Islamic Majlis includes a number of non-Muslims. In the Islamic Republic, there does not exist a human being who is oppressed because of religion, race, or similar bases.

However, there are persons from various sects and religions being tried and sentenced for crimes they have committed, not because of their doctrines or principles. Doctrines are not a crime, but subversive activity against the Islamic society is. Such crimes must be punished according to a major fundamental of the Koranic system prevalent in our Islamic Iran.

Arms Found in Former U.S. Consulate in Mashhad
GF151536 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Dec 85 p 19

[Text] A considerable quantity of military hardware has been found in the former U.S. Consulate General in Mashhad. According to a report by our correspondent quoting the public relations office of the Mashhad police, officials of police station No. 7 of this city, after a series of inquiries and investigations, have succeeded in discovering a considerable quantity of military hardware on the premises of the former U.S. Consulate General in Mashhad.

The report says: An inspection carried out at the premises uncovered a number of items, including 100 gas masks, 64 handgrenades, 4 three-way [as published] handgrenades, 35 mask hoses, 2 portable transceivers, 50 metal helmets, 15 fiber helmets, 6 duffle bags, and a large quantity of ammunition belts. The items were handed over to the competent authorities. This report adds: Following the discovery of the abovementioned munitions, the matter was reported by police station No. 7 to the central police and competent authorities. Large-scale inquiries have begun.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,318
LD131603 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran Dec. 13 IRNA — A military communique published here Friday [13 December] said that at least 40 Iraqi troops

were killed or wounded in various war fronts over Thursday. Communique Number 2318 issued by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also said that the Islamic combatants of Iran, during the same period, defended their positions and foiled all enemy operations.

It said heavy fire of the Iranian defenders forced Iraqi planes on reconnaissance flights in the Piranshah region in the northwest, to flee. Artillery and mortar fire of the Muslim combatants of Iran hit enemy fortifications in the same region, destroying a number of Iraqi bunkers and positions. Ten, out of the 40 casualties, were inflicted in this region.

Meanwhile, four Iranian patrol teams conducted successful infiltration operations in the northwestern fronts, and returned to their bases safely.

In the western fronts, Iran's artillery fire demolished ten enemy bunkers and killed or wounded 30 Iraqi troops.

Some casualties and losses were also inflicted on the enemy forces by Iran's Gendarmerie forces in the southern fronts.

Enemy sporadic shelling of Abadan and Khorramshahr did not inflict considerable damage in the two port cities of Khuzestan Province, according to the communique.

Communique No 2,319

LD141606 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants in an artillery duel with Iraqi forces in the Western fronts on Friday [13 December], killed or wounded a large number of Iraqi troops, demolished two munitions depots and several light or heavy vehicles of the enemy and set fire to vast parts of the enemy positions, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday.

In its Communique Number 2319, the Command says that a large number of enemy ambulances were seen carrying Iraqi casualties of Iranian artillery in these fronts Friday.

The Iranian artillery fire on the Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday blasted an enemy munitions depot and wrecked several vehicles of them, reports the Joint Staff.

The Joint Staff further said that exchange of fire between the Islamic forces and Iraqi troops continued in the southern fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Fakkeh.

An Iraqi armoured unit in Nahr 'Anbar region was also halted on Friday, according to the military communique.

Elsewhere, the communique says Iranian Muslim combatants opened fire on Iraqi positions in the regions overlooking Hur al-Azim and Khorramshahr Friday, inflicting substantial casualties or losses on Iraqi forces.

Meanwhile, Iraqi long-range artillery fire on Abadan in Khuzestan Province Friday damaged parts of the city.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Hovayzeh

LD141900 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed the outskirts of the Iranian city of Hovayzeh at 13:15 hours local time (09:45 CMT) Saturday wounding three local Arab Iranians.

According to reports from Ahvaz, Iraqi aggressor planes also bombed two industrial targets in Khuzestan Province injuring 17 Iranian workers.

IRNA's reporters from Ilam say enemy planes also attempted to raid some cities in Ilam Province but were forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

In Khorramabad, Lorestan Province, Iran's anti aircraft fire repelled a high flying Iraqi plane which broke the sound barrier while fleeing.

Strategic Bridge Destroyed

LD141908 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 14 Dec 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Dec. 14, IRNA — A strategic bridge serving as a vital supply route for the Iraqi Ba'this forces was destroyed by the artillery fire of the Islamic combatants, Friday.

The destruction of the bridge, located west of Arvand River on the Sabieh-Sobhani road has halted the troop movements of the enemy in the southern fronts.

Communique No 2,320

LD151527 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in western fronts Saturday, killed or wounded at least 11 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed 10 bunkers and munitions dumps, one tank and one vehicle of theirs, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

In its Communique Number 2320, the Command says that Iran's Muslim combatants opened fire on Iraqi vehicle columns, one comprising 30 vehicles around Yabis, another comprising 40 vehicles around Talayeh and the last comprising 15 vehicles around Nahr 'Anbar Saturday, inflicting heavy losses on them.

Iranian muslim combatants shelled Iraqi cruiser boats trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in Jofeyr and Taval al-Haddadian Saturday, forcing Iraqi patrols to flee, reports the Joint Staff.

Elsewhere in the same fronts, the Joint Staff says, Iraqi troops incurred casualties and losses by artillery fire of Iranian muslim combatants.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian forces pounded Iraqi positions with artillery and mortar fire Saturday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and demolishing several bunkers of theirs, according to the military communique.

Elsewhere, the communique says that artillery fire of Iran's Gendarmerie Forces on Iraqi positions across the Arvand River Saturday inflicted considerable casualties or losses on the enemy.

Meanwhile, the enemy long-range artillery fire on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours caused slight damages.

Air Attacks on Iraqi Bases

LD150655 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — The Iranian Air Force fighter-bombers in retaliation for Saturday Iraqi attacks, bombed two Iraqi troop concentration areas in Halfayah and Al-Kumayt, at 07:20 hours local time (03:50 GMT) Sunday, said a Joint Staff communique.

The communique, issued a short while ago, added that heavy losses and damages were inflicted on the said positions.

According to the statement, several Iranian planes carried out successful raids on two concentration centers of the Iraqi troops east of Halfaya (3153 north, 4731 east) and east of Al-Kumayt (3211 north, 4705 east), inflicting heavy casualties and damages.

The statement further added that all Iranian Air Force planes returned safely to their bases.

Second Iraqi Site Bombed

LD150837 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA — The Iranian fighter-bombers in another successful operation Sunday pounded a military gar

rison in southern 'Aqrah (364130 North, 435630 East) at 09:30 hours local time (06:000 GMT), inflicting irreparable losses and damages, said a Joint Staff Communique issued here Sunday morning.

According to the communique all the Iranian pilots returned safe to their bases.

Meanwhile the Iranian Air Force pilots in an earlier operation Sunday morning bombed enemy troop concentration areas in two Iraqi cities of Al-Kumayt and Halfaya, inflicting heavy damages and losses.

Afghan Revolutionaries Down Two Soviet Planes

*GF161002 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0400 GMT 16 Dec 85*

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have shot down a fighter belonging to the Soviet occupation forces in Tagrij region in Nimroz Province, in southwestern Afghanistan.

IRNA reported that a few days ago the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries arrested three spies of the Soviet occupation forces. These forces then launched an attack on a base belonging to the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in the region to release the spies.

The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also succeeded in shooting down a Soviet plane in the region of (Anaram).